GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2187
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2017
Provision for Postal Ballot
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the main characteristics of the Representation of the People Act regarding postal/proxy voting;
(b) whether there is a provision that the soldiers and employees of the State and Central Government may cast their votes through postal ballot or authorise any other person for that purpose;
(c) whether it is still binding for non-resident Indians to appear personally to exercise their franchise, if so, the reasons therefor;
(d) whether the Government proposes to make any provision for non-resident Indians to allow them to exercise their franchise through postal ballot or through proxies;
(e) if so, the time by which such provision is likely to be made; and
(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P.P.CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): As per the provisions of the Representation of People Act, 1951 and rules made thereunder, the following categories of electors are entitled to vote by postal ballot at elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies −
(a) special voters [as referred to in sub-section (4) of section 20 of Representation of People Act, 1950],
(b) service voters [as referred to in sub-section (8) of section 20 of Representation of People Act, 1950],
(c) electors on election duty, and
(d) electors subjected to preventive detention.
The service voters belonging to armed forces and the forces to which provisions of the Army Act, 1950 have been made applicable, have been given the facility of voting through proxy also as an alternative voting option.
(c) to (f): At present, overseas electors have the facility of voting in person only. However, a proposal for providing the alternative facility of voting through proxy or postal ballot paper is under consideration of the Government. Since the proposal is required to be considered at various levels, no specific time frame can be indicated for its finalization.